**

**Continued Financial Support**

**for our Congregation**

Thank you for your continued support of our congregation’s ministries!

Offerings can be **mailed** to the church address to:

Claremont United Church

5052 Old Brock Rd, Claremont, ON L1Y 1B3

**PAR forms** (for pre-authorized debit) are available from our church treasurer, Ron Trewin.

To send your offering **by e-transfer** to Claremont United Church, please send it to: treasurercuc@outlook.com

**Claremont United Church**

[www.claremontunitedchurch.com](http://www.claremontunitedchurch.com)

Church office: 905 649 1363

Minister: Rev. Lionel Ketola, BA, M. Div.

Minister of Music: Gabrielle Untermann

**Sunday April 3, 2022, 11:00 am service**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent: “The Anointing at Bethany”**

**GATHERING**

*Prelude & candle lighting – Ukrainian Anthem*

Words of Welcome

**Acknowledgement of the Land**

We begin our worship by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land where we are gathered for worship today. These lands remain home to a number of Indigenous nations and people. Their relationship with the land remains central to their lives.

Claremont United Church lies within the area covered by the Williams Treaties of 1923, between Canada, Ontario, and the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Georgina Island and Rama and the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Scugog Island First Nations.

**God of hope, awaken us to new opportunities to walk in justice and reconciliation with the First People of this land. Amen.**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

There was a man named Jesus who embodied God’s radical and inclusive love in such surprising and healing ways.

And he said: **“I am the Light of the World”**

**Call to Worship**

The Lord has made a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters.
**God is doing a new thing!**
Our mouths will be filled with laughter, our tongues with shouts of joy.
**God is doing a new thing!**
May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
**God is doing a new thing!**
May those who go out weeping come home with shouts of joy.
**God is doing a new thing!**
Let us gather for worship filled with hopeful expectation!

**Opening Hymn: VU 372 Thou I May Speak**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Extravagant God,**

**lavishing your love**

**on our poverty of heart:**

**inspire us to give without holding back,**

**to lose life**

**that we might find it again,**

**so the world will be filled**

**with the fragrance of your love;**

**through Jesus Christ,**

**who offers himself for us. Amen.**

**WORD**

Time with the Children

**Song with the Children: VU 365 Jesus Loves Me**

**Scripture Readings**

Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen now to these words of scripture and for the meaning that they hold in your lives today.

**May God bless us with wisdom and wonder as we listen for the Spirit’s voice through these words of scripture.**

First Reading: Isaiah 43: 16-21

**Psalm 126 VU page 850 (Refrain 2)**

Holy Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11b – 32.

Sermon: Rev. Lionel

**Hymn: MV 144 Like A Healing Stream**

Minute for Mission

Invitation to the Offering

Sung Offering Verse: VU 540

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,**

**with a spirit large and free,**

**that ourselves and all our living**

**we may offer faithfully.**

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts

**Loving God, as Mary offered Jesus the gift of her extravagant care, may the gifts that we offer this day lavish our world with love, compassion and justice; in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

* Opening prayer
* Prayers of intercession
* Sung Lord’s Prayer VU 959

**SENDING**

**Closing Hymn: VU 642 Be Thou My Vision**

* *Joys and Celebrations*
* *Announcements*

Blessing and Commissioning

**Sung Blessing:**

**MV # 214 May God’s Sheltering Wings**

May God’s Sheltering Wings

Her gathering wings protect you,

May God’s nurturing arms,

Her cradling arms sustain you,

And hold you in her love.

And hold you in her love.